

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/880,504

Examiner

Thanh T. Vu

Applicant(s)

HAZEL, THOMAS G.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/17/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-46 and 51.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tan-Chi Yuan on 12/13/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

- forming a scope window displaying in a hierarchical structure a plurality of scope items therein;

- allowing a user to select a particular displayed scope item in the scope window;

- receiving from a user and/or an administrator a first set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining one or more first primary objects to be displayed in a first primary display window;

- forming the first primary display window in response to the particular selected scope item and in response to the first set of instructions for displaying the one or more first primary objects in the first primary display window, said first primary display window being different from said scope window;

- receiving from the user and/or administrator a second set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining one or more second primary objects to be displayed in a second primary display window, wherein the first set of instructions is

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independent of the second set of instructions so that the one or more first primary objects displayed in the first primary display window are independent of the one or more second primary objects displayed in the second primary display window;

forming the second primary display window in response to the particular selected scope item and in response to the second set of instructions for displaying the one or more second primary objects in the second primary display window, said second primary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window; and

linking the first primary objects to the scope window independently of the second primary objects to the scope window, and wherein the scope window persists displaying scope items in the scope window after the forming of the first primary display window and the second primary display window.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for receiving from the user and/or administrator a third set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining one or more third primary objects to be displayed in a third primary display window, said third set of instructions being independent of the first set of instructions and the second set of instructions and for performing the step of forming the third primary display window in response to the particular selected scope item and in response to the third set of instructions for displaying third primary objects linked to the scope window wherein the third primary objects are independent of the first primary objects and wherein the third primary objects are independent of the second primary objects, wherein said third primary display window being different from the scope window, the first primary display window, and the second primary display window.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for:

allowing a user to select at least one of the displayed first primary objects in the first primary display window;

forming a first secondary display window in response to the selected first primary object for displaying first secondary objects which are dynamically linked to the first primary display

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window, said first secondary display window being different from the first primary display window; and

forming a second secondary display window in response to the selected first primary object for displaying second secondary objects which are dynamically linked to the first primary display window wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects, said second secondary display window being different from the first primary display window and the first secondary display window.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 3, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third secondary display window in response to the selected first primary object for displaying third secondary objects which are dynamically linked to the first primary display window wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary objects, wherein said third secondary display window being different from first primary display window, the first secondary display window, and the second secondary display window.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window, wherein the scope window displays and focuses on a selected one of the displayed first secondary objects; and

dynamically linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that a command or selection in the first secondary display window changes the focus or content of the scope window, said first secondary display window being different from the scope window and the first primary display window.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein linking comprises linking being defined by an application developer or a user so that parameters are passed from the scope window to the first primary display window and wherein the passed

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parameters are used in a query to provide data to the first primary display window which determines how it will be displayed.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 6, wherein the query operates on a database to display a selected set of the first primary objects in the first primary display window.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein the scope window, the first primary display window and the second primary display window form a workspace view which is saved either as a local view on a local drive or as a global view in a database shared by multiple users.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, wherein allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item in the scope window, having further computer-executable instructions for:

- linking independently the first primary objects to the selected scope item; and
- linking independently the second primary objects to the selected scope item.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third primary display window displaying third primary objects linked to the selected scope item wherein the third primary objects are independent of the first primary objects and wherein the third primary objects are independent of the second primary objects.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, having further computer-executable instructions for:

- allowing a user to select at least one first primary object in the first primary display window;

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forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object, said first secondary display window being different from the first primary display window; and

forming a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects said second secondary display window being different from said first primary display window, and the first secondary display window.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third secondary display window displaying third secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary objects.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 wherein the user selects at least one first primary object in the first display window, and said computer-readable storage medium having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that the first secondary objects displayed in the first secondary display window are linked to the selected scope item in the scope window.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for defining window types, wherein the scope window, the first primary display window, and second primary display window are associated with one of the window types.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 14, wherein the window types include one or more of the following: a table, a graph, a list, a list control, a topological view, and a text window.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, having further computer-executable instructions for allowing a user to convert one or more of the following from one of the window types to another of the window types:

- the scope window;
- the first primary display window; and
- the second primary display window.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of defining window types as a function of data driven from a query, wherein the type of driven data determines the window type.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

- a scope window displaying in a hierarchical structure a plurality of scope items therein and allowing a user to select a particular displayed scope item;

- a first primary display window displaying one or more first primary objects which are dynamically linked to the particular selected scope item as defined by a first set of instructions specified by the user, said first set of instructions changes the content of the particular selected scope item, said scope window being different from said first primary display window; and

- a second primary display window displaying one or more second primary objects which are dynamically linked to the particular selected scope item as defined by a second set of instructions specified by the user, said second set of instructions changes the content of the particular selected scope item, wherein the first set of instructions is independent of the second set of instructions so that linking the second primary objects to the selected scope items is independent of linking the first primary objects to the particular selected scope item, and wherein the scope window persists displaying scope items in the scope window after forming the first

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primary display window and the second primary display window, said second primary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the user selects at least one first primary object in the first primary display window and further comprising:

a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object, said first secondary display window being different from the first primary display window; and

a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein linking the second secondary objects to the selected first primary object is independent of linking between the first secondary objects to the selected first primary object, said second secondary display window being different from the second primary display window and the first secondary display window.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 18 wherein the user selects at least one first primary object in the first primary display window and further comprising:

a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window and linked to the scope window, said first secondary display window being different from the first primary display window and the scope window.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

forming a scope window displaying in a hierarchical structure scope items therein;
allowing a user to select at least one of the scope items in the scope window;
specifying a first set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining first primary objects to be displayed in a first primary display window;

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forming the first primary display window in response to the first set of instructions for displaying the first primary objects which are dynamically linked to the scope window, said first primary display window being different from said scope window;

allowing the user to select at least one of the first primary objects in the first primary display window;

forming the first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects in response to the selected first primary objects and in response to the first set of instructions which are dynamically linked to the first primary display window, said first secondary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window;

allowing the user to select at least one of the first secondary objects in the first secondary display window;

specifying a second set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining first secondary objects to be displayed in a first secondary display window; and

dynamically linking the first secondary objects in the first secondary display window to the scope window in response to the second set of instructions so that the first secondary objects in the first secondary display window communicate with the scope window by focusing on the selected first secondary objects in the scope window, wherein the communication is independent of the communication between the first primary display window and the scope window.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, having further computer-executable instructions for:

assigning a particular object within the first secondary display window with a task list;
sharing the assigned task list with other objects in the scope window;
permitting the user to execute a new task on the particular object; and
executing the new task on the other objects.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

forming a scope window displaying in a hierarchical structure scope items therein;

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allowing a user to select at least one of the scope items in the scope window;

receiving from the user a first set of instructions for changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining first primary objects to be displayed in a first primary display window;

forming the first primary display window displaying the first primary objects in response to the at least one particular selected scope item and in response to the first set of instructions, said first primary display window being different from said scope window;

allowing a user to select at least one of the first primary objects in the first primary display window;

receiving from the user a second set of instructions for changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining first secondary objects to be displayed in a first secondary display window;

forming the first secondary display window displaying the first secondary objects which are dynamically linked to the first primary display window in response to a selection of one or more first primary objects in the first primary display window and in response to the second set of instructions, said first secondary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window;

allowing a user to select at least one of the first secondary objects in the first secondary display window; and

dynamically linking the first secondary objects in the first secondary display window to the scope window so that a command or selection by a user in the first secondary display window changes the focus or content of the scope window according to the selection or command.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A computer ~~readable~~ storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

forming a scope window displaying in a hierarchical structure scope items therein;

specifying a first set of instructions changing the content of the selected scope item by defining first primary objects to be displayed in a first primary display window;

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forming the first primary display window displaying the first primary objects in response to the first set of instructions so that the first primary objects in the first primary display window are dynamically linked to the scope window, said first primary display window being different from said scope window; and

specifying a second set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining second primary objects to be displayed in a second primary display window;

forming the second primary display window displaying the second primary objects in response to the second set of instructions so that the second primary objects in the second primary display window are dynamically linked to the scope window, said second primary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window; and

defining window types of the first primary display window and of the second primary display window as a function of data driven from a query, wherein the ~~type of~~ driven data determines the window ~~type~~ types.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 44, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of allowing a user to convert the scope window, the first primary display window, and/or second primary display window from one window type to another window type.

Claim 46 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 45, wherein the window types include one or more of the following: a table, a graph, a list, a list control, a topological view, and a text window.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The system of claim 35 wherein means for linking the second primary display window to the scope window is comprises means for linking the second primary display window to the scope window in response to the particular selected item.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-46, and 51 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art either alone or in combination doesn't teach the limitation of "receiving from a user and/or an administrator a first set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining one or more first primary objects to be displayed in a first primary display window;

forming the first primary display window in response to the particular selected scope item and in response to the first set of instructions for displaying the one or more first primary objects in the first primary display window, said first primary display window being different from said scope window;

receiving from the user and/or administrator a second set of instructions changing the content of the particular selected scope item by defining one or more second primary objects to be displayed in a second primary display window, wherein the first set of instructions is independent of the second set of instructions so that the one or more first primary objects displayed in the first primary display window are independent of the one or more second primary objects displayed in the second primary display window; and

forming the second primary display window in response to the particular selected scope item and in response to the second set of instructions for displaying the one or more second primary objects in the second primary display window, said second primary display window being different from said scope window and said first primary display window" in combination with the other claimed features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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